

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 (Canceled)

31. (Original) In a gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus having a bottom wall at least partially defining a combustion chamber, a fuel supply and an air supply introducing fuel and air into the combustion chamber, and an exhaust flue forming communication between the combustion chamber and an ambient environment, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of burner assemblies mounted to the bottom wall, the fuel supply and the air supply in communication with each of the burner assemblies, and each of the burner assemblies having a burner exposed to the combustion chamber.

32. (Original) In the gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein the burner assemblies are positioned a distance apart from each other forming a catch area between the burner assemblies.

33. (Original) In the gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus according to Claim 32 wherein the catch area is centrally located on the bottom wall for catching at least one of debris fallout and condensation.

34. (Original) In the gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein each of the burner assemblies has a mounting apparatus for releasably attaching the burner assembly to the bottom, and the mounting apparatus comprises a flange on the burner assembly, a clip attached to the bottom wall, the clip having an end portion spaced from the bottom wall forming a receiver, a first portion of the flange engageable within the receiver, and a removable fastener fastening a second end of the flange against the bottom wall.

35. (Original) In the gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus according to Claim 31 wherein the gaseous fuel fired water heater is a natural draft and non-condensing water heater.

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36. (Original) In a gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus having a bottom wall at least partially defining a combustion chamber, a fuel supply and an air supply introducing fuel and air into the combustion chamber, and an exhaust flue forming communication between the combustion chamber and an ambient environment, the improvement comprising:

an arcuate burner assembly mounted to the bottom wall, the fuel supply and the air supply in communication with the burner assembly, the burner assembly having a burner exposed to the combustion chamber, and the arcuate burner assembly forming a centrally positioned catch area.

37. (Original) In the gaseous fuel fired water heater apparatus according to Claim 36 wherein the arcuate burner assembly is annular.